



Dear Administrative Agency (AA) and Project Sponsor Staff,

See below for important HOPWA announcements:

- 1) HOPWA 2017 Federal Formula Grant Status
- 2) HOPWA + VAWA Materials are Available for Download
- 3) HOPWA PPR for Project Sponsors (Excel Version) is Available for Download
- 4) TBRA: Using an Exception Rent Standard

If you have questions about this News Flash, please contact Blade Berkman:

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Thanks!

### **HOPWA News Flash**

**\*\*\* Please forward this News Flash to your Project Sponsors \*\*\***

#### **1) HOPWA 2017 Federal Formula Grant Status**

As of 05/11/17, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) had not announced formula allocations for HOPWA 2017 (02/01/17 – 01/31/18). DSHS used level funding from HOPWA 2016 as the basis for HOPWA 2017 AA contracts. When HUD notifies grantees of their allocations for HOPWA 2017, DSHS will initiate contract amendments to align with actual funding. The DSHS Contract Management Unit (CMU) advised the HIV Care Services Group (Group) that, at this point in the contracting calendar, any contract amendments will likely be delayed until September. AAs should anticipate the possibility of a late amendment. Based on [analysis](#) by the National Low Income Housing Coalition, Federal FY HOPWA funding increased from \$301 million to \$356 million to account for changes made to how the program funds are awarded by the Housing Opportunities through Modernization Act (HOTMA). The Group would like to pre-acknowledge that Project Sponsors will have less time to spend any increases from the amendment process.

#### **2) HOPWA + VAWA Materials are Available for Download**

On November 16, 2016, HUD published a [final rule](#) that expanded the protections of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) to the HOPWA program. The Group posted VAWA Materials to the DSHS HOPWA Program [website](#) on 05/05/17 and sent an email to AAs with additional instructions for using the Materials. Most importantly, Project Sponsors must ensure that (a) new enrollments, (b) annual recertifications, and (c) lease renewals for TBRA services on or after **July 01, 2017** incorporate a **VAWA Lease Addendum**.

#### **3) HOPWA PPR for Project Sponsors (Excel Version) is Available for Download**

Are you worried that Blade Berkman will send your Semi-Annual and Year-End HOPWA Program Progress Reports (PPRs) back to you because your numbers don't add up? Well fret no more! The Group has posted a self-calculating Excel version of the PPR for Project Sponsors on the DSHS HOPWA Program [website](#)! You'll find the updated report under the Reporting Documents table. If data within the report is internally inconsistent or illogical, users will receive messages that alert them to the errors and the report will highlight the sources of the errors (this thing is a minefield of

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hidden messages and bright red text). Fix those errors and you're on your way to a hassle-free PPR submission. You, too, can experience the joy of clean data! Best of all, the report is the same length as the Word version and requires no new types of data. Project Sponsors completing HOPWA 2017 Semi-Annual PPRs, due **August 31, 2017**, must download and use the Excel version.

### 4) TBRA: Using an Exception Rent Standard

Per 24 CFR §574.320(a), the gross rent of TBRA-assisted units cannot exceed the rent standard. Historically, the DSHS HOPWA Program has used Fair Market Rent (FMR) for the unit size per the household's county of residence as the rent standard. Alternatively, Project Sponsors may use a HUD-approved community-wide exception rent standard *if one is locally available*. Project Sponsors may request current copies of exception rent standard tables from local Housing Authorities. Generally, exception rent standards are greater than FMRs and could increase the number of units that meet Rent Standard and Rent Reasonableness requirements for TBRA services. The forthcoming 2018 edition of the DSHS HOPWA Program Manual will include additional information on how to use exception rent standards. The forthcoming 2018 release of the DSHS HOPWA Program Forms, **Form H: TBRA Rent Standard and Rent Reasonableness Certification** will include the following update to the Rent Standard Section:

Rent Standard	
<b>Fair Market Rent</b> for the proposed unit size per the household's county of residence* **	\$
Attach the Fair Market Rent (FMR) table used. *Alternatively, Project Sponsors may use a HUD-approved community-wide exception rent standard if one is locally available. If using an exception rent standard, attach the exception rent standard table per the household's exception period and area. **On a unit by unit basis, Project Sponsors may increase the rent standard by up to 10% for up to 20% of the units that receive TBRA services. If using 110%, enter this value instead.	<input type="checkbox"/> 100% <input type="checkbox"/> 110%

**NOTE:** Before using an exception rent standard, Project Sponsors must obtain a copy of HUD's approval letter, the table, and documentation of the exception period and area. When completing Form H, Project Sponsors must ensure that the exception period is still active and the proposed unit is located in the exception area.